



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - January 28, 2003

- ***In the West***, warm, mostly dry weather favors winter fieldwork. However, the majority of the ***West*** (excluding the ***Sierra Nevada*** and parts of the ***southern Rockies***) face serious water-supply concerns for the remainder of the year due to the effects of long-term drought and below-normal mountain snow packs.
- ***On the Plains***, mild weather continues to erode winter wheat's protective snow cover across ***northern portions of the region***. Meanwhile, warm weather prevails on the ***central and southern Plains***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 55 to 75 degrees F.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, a mixture of light snow, sleet, and freezing rain is maintaining stress on livestock and hampering travel. However, ***Midwestern*** snow depths remain negligible for this time of year, averaging 3 inches or less, except in areas downwind of the ***Great Lakes***.
- ***In the South***, cold weather returned to the ***southern Atlantic region*** yesterday and last night, although temperatures remained above the freezing mark (32 degrees F) in ***Florida's citrus belt***.

Outlook: A mixture of snow, sleet, freezing rain, and rain will spread from the ***Corn Belt*** into the ***Mid-Atlantic region and southern New England***, while another Pacific storm will bring additional rain and snow to the ***Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies***. By mid-week, periods of rain are likely in the ***Southeast*** as a cold front stalls across the region, while dry, mild weather will persist across the ***southern Plains and Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 2 -6 calls for drier-than-normal weather in the ***Pacific Northwest, Great Basin, southern Plains***, and ***southern half of the Mississippi Valley***, while above-normal precipitation is forecast for the ***northern Plains, upper Midwest, New England***, and parts of the ***southern Atlantic region***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast on the ***Plains*** and in the ***Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern States***, while cooler-than-normal weather is expected in ***California*** and parts of the ***Northwest***.

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